

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty. Tristan A. Fuierer on November 26, 2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

2.1. In claim 1, line 5, after "reactant," the following has been added:

--wherein said etchant species is selected from the group consisting of hydrofluoric acid, ammonium fluoride, triethylamine trihydrofluoride, ammonium bifluoride, tetraalkylammonium bifluorides having the formula $(R)_4NHF_2$ and alkyl phosphonium bifluorides having the formula $(R)_4PHF_2$, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, butyl, phenyl and fluorinated C_1 - C_4 alkyl groups,--.

2.2. Claim 9 has been cancelled.

2.3. In claim 10, line 1, "claim 9" has been replaced with --claim 1--.

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The limitations of claim 9, indicated to be allowable in the previous office action, are added into independent claim 1, hence, the present claims are allowable over

Art Unit: 1796

Murphy, the close prior art of record, who fails to disclose the recited etchant species in a supercritical fluid based composition. With respect to the remaining method and composition claims, as stated in the previous office action, none of the prior art of record teaches, discloses or suggests: a method of removing silicon- containing particulate matter from a semiconductor wafer in the manner as those recited in the present claims, a method as required in claim 55 wherein the SCF-based composition comprises the recited ingredients, a method as required in claim 56 wherein the pre-cleaning formulation comprises ammonium hydroxide, t- butyl hydrogen peroxide and water, and a composition as required in independent claim 62 which comprises the recited ingredients, in particular, a supercritical fluid and polymeric species selected from the group consisting of a polymeric alcohol and a polymeric amine.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is 571-272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1796

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lorna M Douyon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796